

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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R 040524Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9602

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 3878

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CB ID TH

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE LON NOL-SIHANOUK CONTACT

REF: STATE 47313

1. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF A FAREWELL CALL BY AMBASSADOR TO U.S. UM SIM, WHO IS LEAVING TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON THIS AFTERNOON, TO RAISE AGAIN THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE GKR CONTACTS WITH SIHANOUK'S ELDEST SON, NORODOM YUVENEATH, WHO HAS RECENTLY BEEN IN BANGKOK.

2. UM SIM SAID THAT YUVENEATH HAD ARRANGED FOR THE DEPARTURE OF FIVE FAMILY MEMBERS FROM PHNOM PENH TO BANGKOK: HIS GRANDMOTHER, TWO OF HIS OWN SONS, AND TWO SONS OF A BROTHER. HE BELIEVED THAT THIS PARTY OF SIX MAY HAVE LEFT BANGKOK MARCH 3 FOR PEKING VIA HONG KONG.

3. UM SIM SAID THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER HANG THUN HAK AND FOREIGN MINISTER KEUKY LIM (WITH THE CONSENT OF PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET) HAD TOGETHER SENT TO BANGKOK A PROFESSOR IN THE PHNOM PENH UNIVERSITY OF FINE ARTS WHO HAD BEEN A FORMER INSTRUCTOR OF YUVENEATH. THIS EMISSARY TOLD YUVENEATH THAT THIS SIDE IS ANXIOUS FOR PEACE, AND THAT HE MIGHT CONVOY TO HIS FATHER AN EXPRESSION OF THE WILLINGNESS OF THIS SIDE TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS ON MEANS TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. YUVENEATH REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT HIS FATHER IS NOT A COMMUNIST,

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AND THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING DISCREETLY TO SUPPORT A

PATRIOTIC NON-COMMUNIST PARTY OR GROUPING. NOR DID SIHANOUK OBJECT TO THE IDEA OF A REPUBLIC, THE SON SAID. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT SEE ANY IMMEDIATE PROSPECT OF CHANGING THE CURRENT COURSE WHICH IS BEING PURSUED, I.E. MILITARY VICTORY. UM SIM SAID YUVENEATH "MOUTHED" THE MILITARY VICTORY LINE BUT REALLY PERSONALLY HOPED FOR SOMETHING ELSE. IN SHORT, ACCORDING TO UM SIM, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT YUVENEATH WAS NOT PREPARED TO ANSWER ANY SUCH FEELER WITH ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE STANDARD PUBLIC LINE OF HIS FATHER. NO DOUBT HE WILL REPORT THE CONTACT ON HIS RETURN TO PEKING.

4. COMMENT: THE EMISSARY APPARENTLY WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HANG THUN HAK AND OTHER LIKE-MINED KHMER LEADERS BUT NOT FOR THE GKR. UM SIM STRESSED THIS POINT. HANG THUN HAK IS A FORMER PROTEGE OF THE QUEEN MOTHER (SIHANOUK'S MOTHER). IT WAS HE WHO ACCOMPANIED THE QUEEN MOTHER FROM PHNOM PENH TO CANTON IN 1973. THE INITIATIVE TO GET A MESSAGE TO SIHANOUK THROUGH HIS SON IS QUITE TYPICAL OF HANG THUN HAK'S QUIET EFFORTS TO FIND A WAY OF ESTABLISHING A DIALOGUE WITH THE KHMERS OF THE OTHER SIDE.

5. DEPT. PLEASE REPEAT THIS MESSAGE IF AND AS APPROPRIATE.
DEAN

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NNN

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